

November 23, 2009

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Mayor

Diane Sugimura
Director, DPD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Greg Nickels And Council President Richard Conlin

FROM: Guillermo Romano

DATE: November 23, 2009

RE: SR 520 Bridge Replacement Project

CC: Grace Crunican, SDOT; Diane Sugimura and Ray Gastil, DPD

The Seattle Design Commission would like to recognize the efforts made by the SR 520 Legislative Workgroup in developing a draft Westside design recommendation (known as Option A+ hybrid). We have noted that several elements of the Option A+ hybrid concept are consistent with recommendations outlined in our previous letter (dated 12/18/2008).

We understand that there is still strong support for another proposal (Option M), which was not selected. While Option M is reportedly more costly, it contains several features that are advantageous from a City perspective.

At this time, the Design Commission does not feel it has enough information to provide meaningful comment or recommendation between Option A+ Hybrid and Option M.

However, we want to recommend that either option must accommodate future transit and other non-motorized users to the maximum extent feasible. This would include:

- Coordination with King County Metro and Sound Transit to ensure that transit connections can be implemented to operate at a high level of speed and reliability in the short and long term.
- Address potential pedestrian conflicts to better serve people walking between the UW campus, UW medical center and future Sound Transit station.

Looking ahead, we see a meaningful role for the Design Commission in helping to refine the design of the new public spaces that are common to both options. Both proposals feature new, lidded park areas and green space, as well as bike and pedestrian paths and walkways.

We believe this project is a critical investment in the vitality of the city and the region as a whole.

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